

Remarks

1. Oath/Declaration

Applicants have submitted a new declaration.

2. Claim Objections

Applicants have amended claim 17.

3. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants have amended claims 2 and 13.

4. Claim Rejections based on Edgar and Heddes

As amended, claim 1 recites a content addressable memory that includes circuitry to simultaneously output (1) at least one match signal based on whether a lookup tag matches one or more entries represented by the data stored in the random access memory based each of the different subsets of the tag bits that compose the lookup tag and (2) at least one match signal based on whether the portion of the lookup tag matches a portion of one or more entries represented by the data stored in the random access memory based on less than all of the different subsets of the tag bits. As an example, FIG. 6B of the application illustrates a sample implementation of the claimed subject matter. In particular, gate 142 outputs a match signal based on an exact match of an entire lookup tag while gate 144 simultaneously outputs a partial match signal based only on subtags a-d. The simultaneous output of partial tag matches and full tag matches can be particularly useful in network operations. For

example, a full tag match may represent an exact match of a network address while a partial tag match may represent a more general match, for example, of a network prefix.

The Office Action rejected the independent claims as being anticipated by Edgar (U.S. Pat. No. 5,806,083) and Heddes (U.S. Pat. No. 5,450,351). Applicants' concede that, as correctly stated by the Examiner, these references both depict content addressable memories constructed from Random Access Memories. However, neither Edgar nor Heddes describe the subject matter discussed above.

Applicants have amended independent claims 14 and 20 to include similar limitations as those discussed above. For at least the reasons above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of the independent claims and their corresponding dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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